

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIDRITY 5302
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 09631

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA THREE LINES TWO & THREE)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, PINT, PDIP, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU SEEKS TO DOWN-PLAY SIGNIFICANCE OF
LEVESQUE'S TRIP TO FRANCE

REF: OTTAWA 9586

1. DESPITE THEIR DEEP ANNOYANCE WITH THE FRENCH, IT
IS NOW CLEAR THAT TRUDEAU AND HIS ADVISORS DO NOT
INTEND TO MAKE A CAUSE CELEBRE OUT OF THE WARM
RECEPTION ACCORDED BY THE GOF TO LEVESQUE LAST WEEK.
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION YESTERDAY (NOV 8) IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS, TRUDEAU DISMISSED THE LEVESQUE VISIT
WITH AN APPARENT JIBE AT BOTH THE QUEBEC PREMIER AND
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. REFERRING TO THE LEGION D'HONNEUR
AWARDED LEVESQUE, TRUDEAU SAID THE "QUESTION OF MEDALS
IS LESS IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE OF QUEBEC" THAN
INVESTMENT. HE CORRECTLY NOTED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE
INVESTED IN OTHER PROVINCES, SUCH AS SASKATCHEWAN
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AND NOVA SCOTIA. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED,
APPARENTLY FELT THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT "WILL BE SATISFIED
WITH A MEDAL."

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON
TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE GOC WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION OF
WHAT GISCARD MEANS BY REFERENCES TO FUTURE SUPPORT FOR

QUEBEC AND OF THE SCOPE OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE
QUEBEC AND FRENCH PREMIERS AND THEIR CABINETS.

3. COMMENT. OBVIOUSLY, MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CURRENT
STRAIN IN GOC-GOF RELATIONS IS THE IMPACT OF THE
LEVESQUE VISIT ON THE SEPARATIST CAUSE IN QUEBEC. AS
OUR COLLEAGUES IN QUEBEC CITY HAVE NOTED (QUEBEC 427),
THE VISIT HAS SERVED NOT ONLY TO ENHANCE LEVESQUE'S
PUBLIC STATUS BUT ALSO HIS FAVORED SOVEREIGNTY-
ASSOCIATION OPTION. STILL, AS TRUDEAU IMPLIED YESTERDAY,
THE QUEBECOIS CAN NOT EAT MEDALS. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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